

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 42/Number 9 June/July 2010



Administration's Message

Dear Residents:

School is out, our students and graduates are at home, and we are beginning to get out and enjoy our summer. **Memorial Day** has passed and **Independence Day** is approaching. We pray for the safety of our military sons and daughters and especially for those who currently serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world. The 2nd phase of Census 2010 is in full swing and our 50th Anniversary celebration year is winding down. We have appointments to announce and appreciation to express. Finally, your VBT has been very busy with a number of things including the preparation of a budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year. It is this last matter — the state of the Village finances — that I am compelled to focus on here.

The VBT and I have devoted a significant amount of time in the past few months working on the 2010/2011 budget. Actually, with the recent downturn in our economy, we have spent a lot of our time working on ways to enhance Village revenues and preserve services over the past 3 years. The Village's financial picture is not as bright as any of us would like. Before it becomes critical, we are working hard to explore and take advantage of all possible sources of increasing revenue and maintain Village services at the levels we have enjoyed until now. Unfortunately, we have arrived at a time, later than many of our neighboring communities, where the status quo cannot be sustained. For this reason, **we will hold a special meeting of the VBT in a "townhall" setting at the Village Hall at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2010.** We encourage our residents to be there so that we can present in greater detail than I can explain here where we are financially, how we got to this point, and what can we do in the future to improve our financial picture. Here are some observations I wish to share with everyone.

First, we are now and have been streamlined for several years. That is a good thing but it makes our jobs more difficult because there is no more fat to cut and now we have to trim away the lean. Second, as mayor, I think I can speak for the trustees in expressing our frustration with the current state of the economy and its negative impact on the Village finances. As your elected officials, we desire to serve our community through local government and hopefully to improve our Village. All of us would like to do things to enhance our Village. However, it has been a challenge to just balance the budget and keep what we have. I am acutely aware that the Heritage Center needs to be painted. I know the streets in Ashbrook and Arrowhead Trail need re-paving. I understand how important the leaf pick-up program is to residents. I also

know that we cannot afford to do these things at this time with our current decreased revenues and the possibility of losing 30% of our income tax revenue sharing from the State.

Third, as a "non-home rule" community, the options available to the VBT to enhance revenues are limited. At present, our projected budget deficit for this fiscal year 2010/2011 is \$125,000. How did we get here? This is the result of reduced revenue in several aspects. Our share from income taxes from the state is down. Because this revenue is distributed to us according to our population, the Census is vitally important to us. As the economy slowed and consumers understandably quit spending, our share of sales tax decreased. Revenue from building permits is down. The Cook County property tax cap has affected the Village's revenue from property taxes over the years. Proudly, we have not had a property tax increase in the Village for over 15 years! To those who will correctly point out that their property tax bills have gone up over the past 15 years, I ask that they note that it was for reasons other than increases caused by any higher Village tax rate. I know that a property tax increase is the last thing any of us would like to see in this economy or any time for that matter!

To address our revenue side, we have adjusted business licenses and fees. A few years ago, our residents voted a 1% increase in sales tax. Not only does that increase our revenue some, but in part it comes from non-residents. Our water rates have gone up largely due to increased costs from the City of Chicago that were passed on to us. The VBT refinanced our 2001 and 2003 debt certificates with a new 2009 certificate that postpones for about 4 more years an increase of over \$100,000 in our annual debt payments. We need to plan now how to meet that in 2014! We have actively sought other sources of revenue to help out our bottom line. Significantly, last year we obtained about \$380,000 in federal stimulus funding to re-pave Blackhawk Trail at a final cost to the Village of about \$15,000. Unfortunately, none of the other streets in town qualify for these funds. Finally, we are in line to receive \$165,000 in funds from Lyons Township to upgrade Blackhawk Park. However, we cannot use any of that money to paint the Heritage Center.

The current draft of our budget which is not yet finalized as I write this message has a significant deficit. For example, we included the following in the budget: (1) \$10,000 for the lease of a used van for our public works department rather than

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\$30,000 for a new one; (2) we need two new police cars but budgeted \$30,000 for just one; (3) \$20,000 for the Wilshire Green pond inlet that is in need of work; (4) \$3,000 for televising sewers for emergency purposes; and (5) \$10,000 in sewer maintenance instead of the \$20,000 we need. We have excluded the following: (1) \$20,000 in water system maintenance; (2) dump truck for our Public Works Department (savings of \$30,000+); (3) pay raises for our employees; (4) the leaf pick-up program (savings of about \$40,000).

We would like to include, if money were available, the following items in addition to those matters specifically excluded above: (1) re-pave Ashbrook streets and Arrowhead Trail (estimated cost \$500,000); (2) paint the Heritage Center (\$20,000); replace 5 year old Village computers used by staff (\$10,000); (4) pay down the General Fund deficit; (5) increase reserves needed for increased debt certificate payment beginning in 2014. If we were to include the first three items above to our budget, the impact would be significant. The list of exclusions and "wish list" items mentioned above are not all-inclusive. Not only are we looking at revenue enhancement, we are and have been cutting back.

The picture painted above certainly is not rosy. However, the good news is that we pay our bills on time, meet our payroll, and have maintained the services and police protection that we have enjoyed in the past. Going forward in this fashion does not appear sustainable without some adjustments. To meet this challenge, the VBT and I have discussed several options to raise the funds the Village needs to continue to operate as usual.

These options include asking for home rule authority, creating a special service district to fund street repairs where needed, or asking for residents to pay more property taxes to the Village. We are open to other suggestions too. Accordingly, to hear and discuss more about the Village's finances, please join us at the special VBT "Townhall" meeting on July 15th at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Board room.

Turning to a brighter note, I am pleased to congratulate the following on their reappointments: **Ed Milam** and **Anne Bermier** to the E-911 Board, **Noreen Costelloe** to the Planning and Zoning Commission, and **Joan Pieri** (16 years) as the Village's S.E.A.S.P.A.R. representative.

It is with heartfelt gratitude that I express our thanks to the **IHP Woman's Club** for their \$150 donation to the Village for use in maintaining the Heritage Center. Thank you ladies! Your generosity is appreciated!

The July 4th holiday is approaching quickly. I ask that we all remember the significance in the celebration of Independence Day--Freedom. Please take time that week-end to honor the men and women, past and present, of our Armed Forces who obtained and guarantee our freedom by flying the Flag and, perhaps, doing a good deed for one of them! Thank you, as we thank them!!

In closing, have fun; watch your children, enjoy your Summer! See you on July 15th.

Respectfully,
Richard S. Andrews, Mayor

Scheduled Meeting Dates

Village Board of Trustees 7:30 p.m.:

Thursday, July 8, 2010
Thursday, July 15, 2010 (special Townhall meeting)
Thursday, August 12, 2010

Planning and Zoning Commission 7:30 p.m.:

Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Fire/Police Commission 7:00 p.m.:

No meetings scheduled at this time.

E-911 Board 6:30 p.m.:

No meetings scheduled at this time.

All meetings are held at the Municipal Facility at
201 Acacia Drive. All residents are welcomed!

Smoke Signals

Newsletter Coordinator, Kathy Leach
(708) 246-7099, extension 101
kleach@indianheadpark-il.gov

Volume 42, Number 9

Circulation 2000

Smoke Signals is published by the Village of Indian Head Park to inform its residents of present activities in the village and the ever-growing plans for the future in the pursuit of better government and good citizenship.

Teepee Topics news items should be submitted to the Newsletter Coordinator at the Municipal Offices.

Full page advertisements - \$200.00, 1/2 page advertisements - \$125.00, 3 1/2" x 3 1/2" size advertisements - \$75.00, business card size advertisements - \$45.00, trading post advertisements - \$20.00 (no commercial advertisements - the advertisement will run two times at no cost, then a \$20.00 charge).

Extra copies and back issues (up to one year) of *Smoke Signals* can be obtained at the Village Hall.

Deadline date for the next issue is July 21, 2010.

www.indianheadpark-il.gov

VILLAGE OF INDIAN HEAD PARK

201 Acacia Drive, Indian Head Park, IL 60525
(708) 246-3080
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Office Hours

Mon., Tues., Wed. and Fri 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
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Emerald Ash Borer Confirmed in Indian Head Park

The Village of Indian Head Park has received official confirmation from the Illinois Department of Agriculture of the Emerald Ash Borer's presence in Indian Head Park. Two ash trees in the parkway of the 6300 block of Keokuk Drive were confirmed to be infested with the Emerald Ash Borer. These trees are scheduled for removal.

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is a small, metallic green, non-native invasive pest whose larvae feast on the trunks of ash trees thereby cutting off their ability to transport nutrients and ultimately causing the tree's decline. Ash trees can be infested with EAB for a few years before the tree begins to demonstrate any signs of EAB infestation. Symptoms of EAB include canopy dieback, D-shaped exit holes, shoots sprouting from the tree trunks and S-shaped larval galleries underneath the bark. Ash tree owners may ask about treatment options in order to avoid removing their trees; however, the only guaranteed method to control Emerald Ash Borer is to remove the host tree(s). When considering usage of insecticidal control, one should weigh the value of the tree against the cost of treatment.

"The Illinois Department of Agriculture certainly supports

a tree owner's right to determine for themselves whether a pesticide treatment is appropriate in their specific circumstances," Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau Manager of Environmental Programs Warren Goetsch, said. "Tree owners are encouraged to thoroughly research the various treatment options currently available and carefully weigh the costs associated with the required repeated treatments. Please be advised, however, that treatment of an Ash tree will not guarantee that a specific tree might eventually be required to be removed." A computerized inventory of all parkway and public property trees indicates that the Village

of Indian Head Park has approximately 100 Ash trees which makes up about 4% of the Village's total canopy. The majority of these Ash trees have been treated with a systemic insecticide through the soil.

If you think your Ash tree has been infested, call the Public Works Department at (708) 246-1233.



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Unpredictable Summer Storms and Power Outages

Humankind spent a lot of its history without electricity. So you would think we would be fine roughing it for a day or two. Unfortunately, the reality is we are quite dependent on electricity for some very basic needs. Forget the cell phone or the computer – the safety of our food and water depends on a stable energy supply. Knowing how to stay safe during a power failure is essential in our modern world.

Power Failures in Summer Months

Summer storms and high heat temperatures can cause a loss of power during the summer months. Without air-conditioning, heat illness becomes a real threat. Water consumption will be higher in hot, humid conditions. Expect to drink a gallon of water per day per person during the summer. The CDC recommends these steps for avoiding heat illness:

- Drink a non-alcoholic glass of fluid every 15 to 20 minutes.
- Wear light-colored, loose fitting clothing.
- When indoors without air-conditioning, open windows and use fans.

Refrigeration

Frozen and refrigerated food should be fine for an outage that lasts less than two hours. Some precautions may need to be taken if the power failure is expected to last more than two hours. If the power goes out, a full freezer should still keep frozen food for 48 hours and a half full freezer should last 24 hours. These estimates are shortened if the door is opened. The more the door is opened, the less effective the freezer will be.



Staying Connected

Most cordless phones will not work during a power failure. Regular, landline telephones—those that use only a phone line and do not require a power cord or batteries – will continue to operate during most power failures. Cell phones may or may not function properly. Cell phone systems also have a tendency to overload during a power failure because of overuse. Keep at least one regular corded phone that can be plugged into the phone outlet for emergencies.



Aging Care Connections

(formerly Southwest Suburban Center on Aging)

Aging Well recently honored volunteers Velaine Carnell, Patricia Dime and Mark Zavagnin with awards in excellence for their substantial commitment to the partnership and well being of the community's aging population. Ken Grunke, director of philanthropy and external relations at Aging Care Connections, highlighted the integration of Aging Well into programs offered by Aging Care Connections. Jim Durkan, Executive Director of the Community Memorial Foundation and co-chair of the Aging Well Governing Council, spoke and congratulated the attendees on the many ways they have cooperated to help communities. Formed in late 2001, volunteer-driven community action teams have been working locally to create elder-friendly communities from the project's inception.

In 2004, Aging Well received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through its national program which enabled Aging Well to expand and enhance long-term care and supportive services for older adults. For further information regarding programs and services, please visit the Website: www.agingcareconnections.org or call (708) 354-1323.



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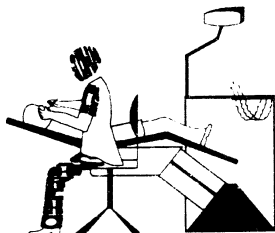
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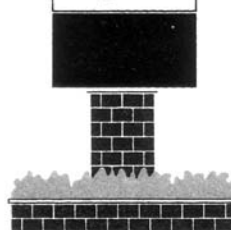
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TEEPEE TOPICS

The weekend of June 11-13 the state summer Special Olympics took place in Normal, Illinois. Emily Pall from Indian Head Park on team S.E.A.S.P.A.R. won the gold medal for women's balance beam, ages 8-15. She additionally took home the bronze medal for the women's Vault competition. Needless to say, her parents, Mike and Mary Pall are extremely proud of Emily's accomplishments. Emily is now 10 years old and has lived in Indian Head Park her entire life! This was Emily's first state meet ever!

Paul Adam Ingram, received a Ph.D. in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology from the University of Chicago. He also received a Department award for outstanding performance in the field of Cell and Molecular Biology. His mom, Denise Ingram, who serves on the Indian Head Park Planning/Zoning Commission is very proud of Paul.

Visit the Indian Head Park Heritage Center Library at 6250 Wolf Road which is open on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 3:00 p.m. (Except on holiday weekends). Are you spring cleaning? Please consider donating your books to the library. Book donations are accepted at the Village Municipal Facility during regular office hours. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact Jane Kuhn at (708) 246-2293.

Congratulations to Peggy and Rich Pellegrino and their four graduates! Michael Pellegrino, University of Illinois College of Law, Magna Cum Laude, Order of the Coif; Daniel Pellegrino, University of Illinois, Cum Laude, attending the John Marshall Law School; Joseph Pellegrino, Nazareth Academy, attending Loyola University of Chicago, recipient Loyola Dean's Scholarship; Rachel Pellegrino, St. John of the Cross, American Legion Award recipient, attending Nazareth Academy, Nazareth Unity Scholarship recipient. Grandma Pellegrino, (91 years young) is very proud of your accomplishments.

Paige Walter, daughter of Albert and Lorraine Walter, graduated from Creighton School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska and has been accepted to the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Program at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. This is a four year residency program. Paige has completed her dream of becoming a doctor and her parents are extremely proud of her accomplishments.

The following students were named to the honor roll at Pleasantdale Middle School: Cooper Hardy, Alexis Gutierrez, Alexandra Christos, Nicole Lata, Nicholas Piento, Mae Sophie, Alaa Khalyfa, Guinevere Nueva Espana, Alexandra Christos, Cooper Hardy, Mae Sophie. The following students from Nazareth Academy were named to the honor roll: Rourke McCollom, Joseph Pellegrino, Colleen McCollom, Andrew Bartucci, Clare Bohne and Nicole Yu.

Census 2010

The 2010 Census has moved into phase 2. Census takers are going door-to-door to households that have not returned the census forms. This phase will last through the month of July. Please cooperate. Your information is vital to the financial well-being of our Village. Contact us through the Village Hall if you have any questions. Census 2010 Committee, Mayor Rich Andrews and Trustee Anne Bermier.

West Suburban Chicago Regional Chili Cook-Off

Mayor Alan Nowaczyk and our good neighbors in Willow Springs will be hosting a chili cook-off on Saturday, August 14, 2010 at their Village Hall. If you have a great chili recipe and wish to compete for prizes, you should check this out. For information, contact Maureen Barrett at (312) 209-7173.

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